



The Secretary's Vector

Dr. James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

12 May 2003

On My Intended Nomination to Serve as Secretary of the Army

On May 7, 2003, the President of the United States announced his intent to nominate me as Secretary of the United States Army. I am deeply honored by his confidence in my ability to lead the Army, and have informed the President that, if nominated and confirmed, I will serve.

In doing so, I ask you to understand that this acceptance reflects a commitment to one of our core values, "*Service Before Self*." My service is no different than any officer, noncommissioned officer, airman, or civilian who is asked to accept an assignment in the interests of our armed forces. I have sworn an oath to support and defend this great nation, and to obey our Commander-in-Chief - I will remain faithful to these sacred compacts.

While honored, I recognize that this nomination is more a reflection of your dedication, your excellence, your loyal service to the nation, and your great success in accomplishing our mission. Over the past two years, you have repeatedly delivered for our nation -- from the defense of our skies to the global war on terrorism, all while transforming our force to meet the needs of a new era with dangerous new threats to our way of life. We are the best Air Force in the world; and we will remain so because of the over 700,000 dedicated officer, enlisted and civilian airmen who understand how to fly, fix, launch, support, defend, and employ air and space power.

There are several steps to go in the nomination and confirmation process. Should my nomination advance to the Senate, it will require hearings before the Armed Services Committee and must be voted on by the full Senate. Nothing should be presumed as definitive at this point. If I do become Army Secretary, Diane and I will leave the Air Force with some of the most indelible and inspirational experiences of our lives. We will miss the camaraderie and esprit of all the airmen we've met. Diane will cherish the wonderful time she has spent with dear -- and from here on, life-long -- friends such as Ellen Jumper. And I will be forever ennobled by having the opportunity to work with and learn from such incredible leaders as John Jumper and Peter Teets.

In the meantime, I will continue to work vigorously to overcome the challenges we face, accomplish our mission with excellence, and care for our Air Force family. So, let's keep plugging away on making the future Air Force the Service of pride, the Service that wonderful warriors like General John Jumper want it to be, and the Service to which you have dedicated your lives.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James G. Roche".

James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force